

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

November 15, 2005

On January 10, 1995 the Board approved a Clean Fuels Program with the goal of transitioning as many County-owned vehicles to clean fuels as possible within the limits of service delivery requirements and departments' financial resources.

At that time, alternative fuel vehicles were limited to methanol, ethanol, propane, and natural gas. During the last couple of years new hybrid technology has emerged which allows the combination of a gasoline or diesel engine with an electric motor to power a vehicle. Among the many benefits of this technology are: improved fuel mileage, lower exhaust emissions, reduced noise pollution, improved performance, unrestricted driving range, and no special requirements for refueling.

While the cost of hybrid vehicles may slightly exceed their gasoline counterparts, they can save money when the total cost of ownership is considered. Independent research conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory reveals that the 5-year cumulative total cost of ownership for a hybrid vehicle sedan is almost \$8,000 lower than the total cost of a traditional gas powered vehicle. There are several moderately priced hybrid passenger sedans currently on the market and vehicle manufacturers have announced more models will be available in 2006 and

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Although, due to demand issues in this industry, there is a delay in acquiring hybrids versus traditionally powered vehicles, this can be overcome through greater standardization and planning to enable the ordering of vehicles in advance.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board modify the current Clean Fuels Policy to ensure that hybrid vehicles become the standard for new non-emergency passenger sedans acquired to conduct routine County business; direct County departments to, whenever feasible, acquire hybrid passenger sedans, as they replace the gasoline powered passenger sedans, beginning no later than July 1, 2006; and instruct ISD to submit a revised Clean Fuels Program policy, including a report on costs, to the Audit Committee for review and approval.

BC:\Hybrid Vehicles